

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 052497

R 100717Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 401

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS; NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECISIONS; UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT PROGRAM

REF: ISLAMABAD 6137

SUMMARY: NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY HAS FINALLY DROPPED
KHATTAK AS PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND HAS CALLED FOR
CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVERNMENT
BEGINNING AUGUST 24. UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT PRO-
POSES TO CONDUCT SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS IN PUNJAB
FROM AUGUST 10. POSTURING BY OPPOSITION
PROBABLY REFLECTS DISSATISFACTION BY MANY WITH MODERATE
OPPOSITION TACTICS. QUESTIONABLE WHETHER MORE AGGRESSIVE
STANCE OF OPPOSITION WILL BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN
PAST TACTICS IN EITHER COERCING BHUTTO
GOVERNMENT OR IN WINNING MASS SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY HELD THREE-DAY MEETING OF
PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN RAWALPINDI AUGUST 4-6. ONE
DECISION TAKEN WAS APPOINTMENT OF PUNJAB NAP PRESIDENT
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GARDEZI AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPLACE AJMAL

KHATTAK WHOSE PRESENCE IN KABUL AND STATEMENTS SINCE SELF-IMPOSED EXILE HAVE BEEN SOURCE OF ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO PARTY. GARDEZI'S APPOINTMENT APPEARS PART OF NAP EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS WEAK POSITION IN PUNJAB (BALUCH EX-CHIEF MINISTER MENGAL OF NAP HAS BEEN TOURING PUNJAB STRESSING HIS LOYALTY TO PAKISTAN, FLATTERING PUNJABIS, AND URGING PUNJAB TO OPPOSE PPP AND BHUTTO).

2. IN LAHORE PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 8, GARDEZI STATED NAP WOULD SUPPORT UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT CALL FOR "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVERNMENT UNLESS SEVEN POINT UDF PROGRAM FOR "RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY" ADOPTED BY AUGUST 24 (REFTEL REPORTS UDF JULY MEETING IN WHICH UDF PROPOSED TO CONTINUE "COUNTRYWIDE MOVEMENT" IF ITS PROGRAM NOT ADOPTED. NAP WHICH WANTED UDF TO CALL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT APPARENTLY HAS DELIBERATELY CHOSEN TO MISINTERPRET ACTION AGREED UPON BY UDF.)

3. GARDEZI ALSO INDICATED THAT NAP HAD ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS. FOREIGN POLICY: ACCUSED GOP OF REVIVING CENTO TO "PLEASE THE IMPERIALISTS", CRITICIZED GOP FOR "DILLY-DALLYING" ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH AND REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS-OF-WAR. BALUCHISTAN: CASTIGATED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR DISMISSAL OF MENGAL GOVERNMENT; ACCUSED GOP OF PREVENTING FOOD FROM REACHING MENGAL AND MARRI TRIBAL AREAS; SAID GOP WAS USING BALUCHISTAN AS TESTING GROUND FOR "TORTURE DEVICES" IMPORTED FROM US. PRICES: ECHOED UDF CALL FOR ROLLBACK OF PRICES TO 1971 LEVELS; ACCUSED GOP OF FOSTERING SMUGGLING AND PROFITEERING. LAND REFORM: STATED PPP LAND REFORMS HAD CONSOLIDATED POWER OF LARGE LANDLORDS PARTICULARLY IN SIND; CALLED FOR CESSATION OF PEASANT EJECTION BY LANDLORDS. LAW AND ORDER: DEMANDED LIFTING OF SECTION 144 AND REMOVAL OF PARA-MILITARY FORCES FOR KARACHI INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

4. MEANWHILE UDF HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN PUNJAB (LAST TOUR IN MAY WAS DISRUPTED EVERYWHERE BY PPP). TOUR PROPOSED TO BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUGUST 10 AND CONTINUE THROUGH 19TH WITH VARIOUS UDF LEADERS VISITING PRINCIPAL TOWNS THROUGHOUT PROVINCE.

5. COMMENT: MORE ACTIVE POSTURING BY BOTH NAP AND UDF IN RECENT WEEKS PROBABLY REFLECTS INCREASING DISSATISFACTION OF MAY IN OPPOSITION OVER MODERATE STAND OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT MOST OF PERIOD FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION, STAND WHICH HAS

SO FAR FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY CONCRETE RESULTS. MOREOVER,
SOME INBOTH NAP AND UDF MAY BE CONCERNED OVER PROSPECT
THAT ASGHAR KHAN AND HIS TEHRIK-I-ISTIGLAL COULD ATTRACT
INCREASING SUPPORT AT THEIR EXPENSE UNLESS OPPOSITION GROUPS
ACCELERATE THEIR ATTACKS ON BHUTTO GOVERNMENT. REMAINS TO
BE SEEN WHAT NAP WILL DO, HOWEVER, TO IMPLEMENT CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE CALL OR WHETHER UDF WILL BE ANY MORE SUCCESS-
FUL IN TOURING PUNJAB THAN HERETOFORE. THERE ARE NO
SIGNS THAT BHUTTO PREPARED PERMIT ANY INROADS BY OPPOSITION
INTO DOMINANT PPP POSITION IN PUNJAB.
SOBER

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